

National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
George C. Marshall Space Flight Center  
Marshall Space Flight Center, AL 35812



November 5, 2008

Reply to Attn of:

LS01(DMW)

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

FROM: LS01/ William J. Bierbower

SUBJECT: Approval for MSFC Employees with Senior Institutional Responsibilities to Attend a Brunch and Accept Bus Transportation to View the STS-126 Space Shuttle Launch

In accordance with 5 CFR. § 2635.204(g)(2) and (3), I make the following determination:

Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC) employees with senior institutional responsibilities have been invited to attend a brunch and accept bus transportation to view the STS-126 Space Shuttle Launch, on Friday, November 14, 2008. The event is co-sponsored by the Louisiana Department of Economic Development (LDED), NASA, and Lockheed Martin Space Systems (Lockheed Martin).

The invitees are scheduled to partake in brunch; after which, they will then be transported by bus to the launch site to view the launch of STS-126. This event will be a widely-attended gathering of Louisiana state legislators and their guests, the Mayor of New Orleans and his guest, members of the Louisiana Department of Economic Development and guests, Lockheed Martin employees and guests, and NASA employees and guests. The brunch and transportation are collectively valued at \$41.00 per person and approximately 40 individuals are scheduled to attend. I find that the event meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 CFR § 2635.204(g)(2).

The MSFC invited officials have job duties that involve frequent interaction with the LDED and Lockheed Martin and may substantially affect LDED's interests and/or the interests of Lockheed Martin. These personnel include the following: Director, Michoud Assembly Facility Transition; Chief Operating Officer, Michoud Assembly Facility; and Supervisor, External Relations Office. These individuals are similarly situated in that they each have institutional responsibilities for the Michoud Assembly Facility that involves significant community relations responsibilities, and that may significantly influence LDED and or Lockheed Martin activities

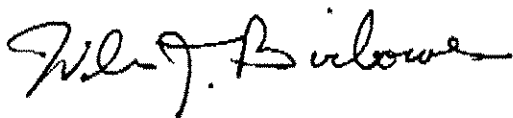
I have determined that free attendance of these senior institutional leaders at the event is in the interest of the agency because it will further agency programs and operations. The

attendance of these senior NASA employees at the event will help to raise NASA's profile with business and governmental leaders, will contribute to community relations, and will support NASA's statutory mandate to disseminate information about its programs.

Given the purpose of the event, NASA's interest in it, the broad attendance anticipated, and the modest market value of the event, I have determined that the value to the agency in having these senior institutional leaders attend this event outweighs any concern that free attendance may or may appear to improperly influence them in the performance of their duties.

Accordingly, NASA employees in the positions identified above may accept free attendance at the event. They may also accept invitations for accompanying spouses or guests.

Questions about this determination may be addressed to Devinti M. Williams at 256-544-0012.



William J. Bierbower  
Chief Counsel